

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
/168 W

-----019792 061708Z /43

P 061640Z APR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8058
INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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USMTN

ACTION STR

STR PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD
SUBJECT: US-TUNISIA MTN CONSULTATION

1. SUMMARY. US AND TUNISIA HELD CONSULTATION APRIL 5
TO DISCUSS MTN DEVELOPMENTS AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE
TIMETABLE FOR COMPLETION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BY JULY 15.
TUNISIA PROVIDED US WITH ITS INITIAL LIST OF REQUESTS.
END SUMMARY.

2. US DEL (DRAZEK) MET WITH TUNISIAN DEL (MOKKADEM)
APRIL 5 TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE MTN AND TO DISCUSS
NECESSARY WORK PROGRAM FOR COMPLETION OF THE NEGOTIA-
TIONS BY JULY 15 DEADLINE. US DEL STRESSED IMPORTANCE
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US ATTACHES TO DEADLINE AND NECESSITY OF HAVING ALL
ELEMENTS OF BILATERAL PACKAGE ON THE TABLE AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE. TUNISIAN DEL PROVIDED US DEL WITH A COPY OF
ITS INITIAL REQUEST LIST COVERING BOTH INDUSTRIAL AND
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (BEING AIRGRAMMED WASHINGTON FOR
CIRCULATION). US DEL NOTED THAT AN IMPORTANT REQUIRE-
MENT FOR MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS HAD THUS BEEN SATISFIED.

THE DELEGATIONS AGREED AFTER A BRIEF EXAMINATION OF THE LIST THAT A FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION MIGHT BE USEFUL TO CLARIFY POSSIBLE PROBLEMS.

3. US POINTED OUT THAT THE US OFFER WOULD INCREASE DUTY-FREE (MFN) IMPORTS FROM TUNISIA FROM 65 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL (EXCLUDING PETROLEUM) TO 75 PERCENT. US ALSO OBSERVED THAT THE OFFER INCLUDED DUTY ELIMINATION FOR CERTAIN COTTON WIPING RAGS (TSUS 390.30), WHICH IN 1976 WAS THE SECOND LARGEST NON-PETROLEUM IMPORT FROM TUNISIA. US DEL EXPLAINED "PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER" CRITERIA PERTAINING TO THE AGRICULTURAL OFFER NOTING THAT TUNISIA IS PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER OF ONLY ONE ITEM IN TSUS, CERTAIN SPONGES (TSUS 190.85). TUNISIAN DEL POINTED OUT THAT THIS ITEM WAS INCLUDED ON THEIR REQUEST LIST.

4. US ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO US "INDICATIVE LIST" OF EXPORT INTERESTS IN TUNISIA AND EXPLAINED RATIONALE FOR PRODUCTS ON THE LIST AND FACT THAT ACTIONS INDICATED COULD BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT ADVERSELY AFFECTING TUNISIAN ECONOMY. US ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT IMPORTANT THING IS TO RECEIVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE AN INDICATION OF THE CONTRIBUTION TUNISIA INTENDS TO MAKE TO THE MTN.

5. TUNISIAN DEL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US EXPLANATION OF US OFFER AND INDICATIVE LIST BUT ASSERTED THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE VERY LITTLE TO BENEFIT TUNISIA, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF US REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE PRE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FERENTIAL TARIFFS. HE AGREED TO FORWARD TO TUNIS INFORMATION PROVIDED BY U.S.

6. DRAFTED BY DRAZEK. CULBERT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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